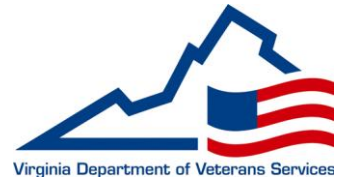


# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **The Virginia Department of Veterans Services Partners with the Department of Defense to Honor Vietnam Veterans**

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) is proud to announce its partnership in the Vietnam War Commemorative Partners Program on behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The program is offered by the United States Department of Defense and focuses on helping a grateful nation thank and honor America's Vietnam veterans and their families for service, valor and sacrifice as part of the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary. "The Virginia Department of Veterans Services is pleased to be recognized as a Commemorative Partner of the Vietnam War Commemoration and is eager to join in support of honoring our Vietnam War Veterans and their families," noted Vietnam Veteran and DVS Commissioner Paul Galanti\*.

The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics estimates 235,231 Virginia residents are Vietnam War veterans, nearly one-third of Virginia's total veteran population. Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs John C. Harvey offered "As we reflect upon the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War we invite all Virginians to pay tribute to the extraordinary service and sacrifice of these brave men and women who served, fought and died in Vietnam."

### **Vietnam War Facts and Figures**

8.7 million Americans served on active duty  
7,330,032 Vietnam War veterans are alive today  
1307 Virginians were killed in action  
45 Virginians are still unaccounted for  
19 Virginians were held as prisoners of war

### **About the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration**

*The commemorative program includes activities and ceremonies to achieve the following objectives:*

*To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war (POW), or listed as missing in action (MIA), for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.*

*Serving those who served.*

*To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.*

*To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.*

*To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.*

*To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.*

*To Learn more visit: <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>*

*\* Commissioner Paul Galanti flew 97 combat missions in Vietnam before being shot down and captured on June 17, 1966. He remained a prisoner of war of the North Vietnamese for nearly seven years and was released on February 12, 1973.*

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